

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 Cancelled.

20. (presently amended) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and a flat side surface defining multiple, varying-sized nail-retention grooves ~~having a rounded interior portion and a partially frustoconical interior portion, said~~ grooves dimensioned to orient the nails toward said striking face; wherein each of said nail-retention grooves is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail, each of said grooves with: ~~;~~ and

a partially cylindrical nail head groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said hammerhead;

a partially frustoconical nail-head groove portion, adjacent to said partially cylindrical nail head groove portion, characterized by a radius that: diminishes in depth within said hammerhead toward said striking face; centrally increases toward a convergent median of said frustoconical groove portion; and diminishes in width across said hammerhead toward said striking face, such that a nail head of the nail is partially enveloped by said partially frustoconical groove portion;

a partially cylindrical shaft groove portion, peripherally proximate to said

striking face and adjacent to said partially frustoconical nail-head groove portion, characterized by a substantially uniform radius spanning from said partially frustoconical groove portion to said striking face, such that a nail shaft of the nail is partially enveloped by said partially cylindrical shaft groove portion; and
wherein said grooves allow the nail substantially continuous, centralized movement longitudinal to the direction of the hammerhead from said partially cylindrical nail head groove portion through said partially frustoconical groove portion and said partially cylindrical shaft groove portion;

and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with each of said nail-retention grooves.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The hammer of claim 21 wherein said magnetic core comprises a multiple magnets, wherein each of said nail-retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

23. (cancelled)

24. (new) A hammer for removing nails from a substantially-planar nail-removal surface in a confined space, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead affixed to said handle and with a top surface and a striking face,

said hammerhead comprising a pair of flared claws with an inner side portion height and an outer side portion height, wherein said inner side portion height is greater than said outer side portion height such that a rounded upper surface of said flared claws slants downward with respect to a longitudinal median of said hammerhead top surface;

said claws each having a claw end defining an interior nail removal void with a width that diminishes into said hammerhead, each of said nail removal voids forming an axis of substantial symmetry that converges with the other; and wherein each of said nail-removal voids is transversely angled such that said nail removal void includes a variable elevation that allows said nail-removal void to be substantially co-planar with the nail-removal surface while said hammerhead is rolled from said claw toward said striking face along said rounded upper surface.

25. (new) The hammer of claim 24 wherein said rounded upper surface possesses a degree of rounding that decreases in magnitude from said claw end in a direction of said striking face.

26. (new) A hammer for releasably retaining nails, with nail-heads, of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead with a striking face and affixed to said handle, said hammerhead defining multiple, varying-sized nail-retention grooves dimensioned to orient the nails toward said striking face, each of said grooves with:

a substantially cylindrical nail head groove portion within said

hammerhead adapted to cradle the nail-head;

a substantially frustoconical nail-head groove portion, adjacent to said cylindrical nail-head groove portion, characterized by a radius that: diminishes in depth within said hammerhead toward said striking face; centrally increases toward a convergent median of said frustoconical nail-head groove portion; and diminishes in width across said hammerhead toward said striking face, such that the nail head of the nail is partially enveloped by said frustoconical groove portion;

a substantially cylindrical shaft groove portion, peripherally proximate to said striking face and adjacent to said frustoconical nail-head groove portion, such that a nail shaft of the nail is partially enveloped by said cylindrical shaft groove portion; and

wherein said grooves allow the nail substantially continuous, centralized movement longitudinal to the direction of the hammerhead from said partially cylindrical nail head groove portion through said partially frustoconical groove portion and said partially cylindrical shaft groove portion;

and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with each of said nail-retention grooves.